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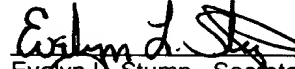
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Evelyn L. Stump, Secretary

In the Application of Ernst Michael Winter, et al.

Ser.No.: Not Yet Known (based on DE 298 07 331.5 filed 23 April 1998; DE 298 17 072.8 filed 23 September 1998; DE 298 17 487.1 filed 1 October 1998; DE 298 20 230.1 filed 12 November 1998 and PCT/EP99/02654 filed 20 April 1999)

International  
Filing Date: April 20, 1999

For: GEMSTONES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING ENTRY INTO  
NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION**

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 1, immediately after the title, please insert the following heading:

--Background of the Invention--.

On page 1, between lines 18 and 19, please insert the following heading:

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